

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

DOMENICI, Pete V. (Republican)
Senior Senator from New Mexico
Elected (1972) to US Senate; reelected
Present term expires January 2009



BACKGROUND

Born: Albuquerque, New Mexico - 7 May 1932

Home: Albuquerque, New Mexico

Marital status: Married (Nancy) - 8 children

Religion: Roman Catholic

Education: U of Albuquerque, 1950-52; U of New Mexico, B.S. 1954; U of Denver, LL.B., 1958

Military: None

Profession: Attorney

Political: Albuquerque City Cmsn, 1966-70, chmn, 1967-70. Succeeded the retiring Sen Clinton P. Anderson (R) in 1972. Reelected in 1996 with 64% of vote and in 2002 with 65.6%.

Sen Domenici is a pragmatic conservative.

In the 106th Congress, opposed any cuts at the AF Research Laboratory. Cautioned AF against eliminating future flight demonstrations for the SBIRS low-Earth-orbit satellite flights. Offered amdt setting aside \$7.5 million of AF RDT&E funds for the GEO High Resolution Space Object Imaging program. Opposed S. Con. Res. 21, war powers/Kosovo.

In the 107th Congress, made good on commitment to provide full funding for Defense Health, Tricare for Life. Crafted the FY02 Budget Resolution to make room for DoD supplemental in 01 with \$1.4B for the Defense Health Programs. Strong supporter of laser technologies: Optomec, Inc. and Goodrich Optical & Space Systems - both in Albuquerque. Introduced S 1277, Russian Fissile Materials Act, a bill to prevent weapons materials from the former Soviet Union's stockpiles from entering hostile hands. Introduced S. 1407, Critical Infrastructures Protection Act. Cautioned President Bush and the Pentagon about including nuclear weapons complex facilities (e.g., Los Alamos, Sandia) in any new military base closure and realignment process. Offered an amdt to the budget resolution to provide for the use of budget reconciliation as the legislative mechanism for handling President Bush's proposed tax cut. Proponent of the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator, or "bunker buster" bomb.

In the 108th Congress, introduced S. 336, the Military Family Access to Dental Care Act, which he believed would have an impact on military families serving at remote rural bases. In January 2003, said he hoped the President would tell the American people the issue in Iraq is why Saddam Hussein has not destroyed the weapons of mass destruction, not that we did not find them. Stated that the UN verified that Saddam had thousands of biological and chemical weapons. Calling the 12,000-page document that Iraq submitted to the UN a farce, suggested that it does not explain what happened to all those weapons. Asserted "They cannot easily be gotten rid of so he has not gotten rid of them. He hid them."

Additional: Member of the Air Force Caucus. White Sands Missile Test Range/Los Alamos and Sandia National Labs are in his State. Member of the Senate GOP National Security Working Group.

AF Bases: Cannon, Holloman, Kirtland AFBs; Minor Bases/Reserve Forces

COMMITTEES

APPROPRIATIONS – Subc on Defense

BUDGET

ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES - Chairman

INDIAN AFFAIRS
BOARD OF VISITORS, USAF ACADEMY, 1991-92